NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250

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For more information, contact: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892

Human Services reminds stakeholders of upcoming regional advisory group meetings in July

BISMARCK, N.D. – Advisory groups for N.D. Department of Human Services' regional human service centers in Jamestown, Fargo, and Minot will hold their quarterly meetings in July to receive updates about budgets, staffing, and mental health and addiction treatment, and other services provided directly to residents or through contracts with private service providers.

Advisory groups will meet at their respective regional human service centers on July 16, 10 a.m., at South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown, and at 1:30 p.m. at Southeast Human Service Center in Fargo, and on July 21 at 10 a.m. at North Central Human Service Center in Minot. The public is welcome to attend. Meeting agendas vary by region. Meeting location and agenda details are online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

These advisory groups meet quarterly, and include people representing the multi-county areas served by each regional human service center. Members provide information about local needs, and make recommendations about the delivery and development of mental health and addiction treatment services, and other human services in their regions.

A map depicting service regions, a list of core services available, and center location information is on the Web at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact the person identified in the <u>public meeting notice</u> for their region.

North Dakota's eight regional human service centers serve about 26,500 people per year. About 6,000 of the North Dakotans served are age 18 and younger. Together, the regional centers employ about 846 full-time staff. They provide counseling and other mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, services for people with disabilities, and other human services directly or in partnerships with county social services and other agencies and private sector behavioral health professionals.

Because North Dakota is a designated mental health professional shortage area, behavioral health professionals from other regional human service centers in the state or contracted private sector providers may travel to, or use tele-medicine, to provide behavioral health services at the smaller, more remote regional centers.